



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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01/16/02
D. Bell

Applicant(s) : ALBOU

Group Art Unit: 2875

Serial No : 09/501,069

Examiner: A. Ton

Filed : February 9, 2000

For : MOTOR VEHICLE HEADLIGHT OF THE ELLIPTICAL TYPE
CAPABLE OF EMITTING A CUT-OFF BEAM WITH
IMPROVED PHOTOMETRY

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2001 (hereinafter referred to as "the Office Action"), please enter the following amendments in the above-referenced application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the first paragraph commencing at line 1 of page 3 of the Specification, and insert therefor --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Please delete the third full paragraph commencing at line 7 of page 6 of the Specification and insert therefor

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 ¶ Figures 10-15 illustrate in a more detailed way the profile of the beam obtained with the parameter changing as illustrated in Figure 9. ¶

[Please delete the first full paragraph commencing at line 1 of page 15 of the Specification, and insert therefor

A⁷
 ¶ The profile of the beam obtained with the parameter setting of z_{Fd} as illustrated in Figure 9 is represented in Figures 10-15. ¶

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 IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 as follows:

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 1. (Amended) A motor vehicle headlamp, comprising a light source for generating light, a mirror possessing first and second focal regions, and a converging lens, the source being placed in the first focal region and the lens having a focus located in the second focal region, the mirror and the lens having axes which are essentially coincident defining an optical axis of headlamp, and the headlamp further including a mask located in the region of the focus of the lens, in order thus to project a beam having an upper cut-off defined by said mask, and the mirror having at least a first area for concentrating the light in the vertical direction, towards a vertical focusing baseline extending substantially horizontally and transversely to the optical axis and passing close to the focus of the lens, wherein the mirror further comprises at least one corrected vertical focusing area for concentrating the light, in the vertical direction, towards a second vertical focusing baseline separate from said vertical focusing baseline in the

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axial direction, in order thus to increase the thickness of the light reflected by said first area along said optical axis.

2. (Amended) A headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one corrected vertical focusing area comprise two corrected focusing areas, situated on either said of an axial vertical plane.

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4. (Amended) A headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second vertical focusing line disposed further in the axial direction than said vertical focusing baseline.

5. (Amended) A headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mirror further comprises at least one vertical offsetting area for offsetting the light in at least one direction vertically upwards or downwards with respect to the vertical focusing baseline.

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7. (Amended) A headlamp as claimed in claim 5, wherein the vertical offsetting area is constructed from sections of axisymmetric ellipsoids a first focus of which is situated above or below the source and a second focus of which is situated on a vertical focusing line associated with said vertical offsetting area.

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 have been amended herein. Claim 1 is independent. No new subject matter has been added.

The applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in applicants' claims 4 and 7-11, as described in paragraphs 4-5 of the Office Action.

Any amendments to the claims made herein that are not in response to an objection or rejection by the Examiner have been made solely to define the scope of that which applicant regards as the invention. Such amendments include all additions or deletions to the claims not relied upon to distinguish the applicant's invention from the Blusseau reference described below.

Specification

The Specification has been amended solely to correct (i) references to the Figures and (ii) the heading for the "Summary of the Invention" section of the Specification.

Claim Objections and Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,155,702 to Blusseau (hereinafter "Blusseau"). This rejection is not supported by the Blusseau reference.

Blusseau does not disclose, inter alia, a motor vehicle headlamp having a mirror including "at least one corrected vertical focusing area for concentrating the light, in the vertical direction, towards a second vertical focusing baseline separate from said vertical

focusing baseline in the axial direction, in order thus to increase the thickness of the light reflected by said first area along said vertical axis" as recited in claim 1.

Instead, Blusseau discloses adding two optical plates 50 at the edge of the lens 40 to "give a visual impression of a larger illuminating area, either for styling reasons or for the visual comfort of drivers of vehicles travelling in the opposite direction, given that the impression of being dazzled is reduced by the presence of the two lateral extensions 50 of the lens, which also emit light." (see Col. 3, lines 25-49 and FIG. 1 of Blusseau).

Thus, Blusseau does not disclose the mirror recited in claim 1, which has an area for concentrating light to a first vertical baseline and at least one corrected vertical focusing area for concentrating light to a second vertical baseline. Instead, Blusseau discloses two optical plates mounted on the lens, not the mirror. In addition, the purpose of the optical plates is to present a larger illuminated area of the headlamp itself (see Col. 3, lines 25-29 of Blusseau) while the purpose of the at least one corrected vertical focusing area is to "increase the thickness of the light reflected by said first area along said optical axis." Support for this recitation in claim 1 can be found in Applicant's Specification at page 10, lines 1-9.

Accordingly, Blusseau does not disclose the features recited for Applicants' claimed mirror, nor do the features relied on by the Examiner in the Blusseau reference serve the same purpose. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that this distinction overcomes the rejection of claim 1 based on the Blusseau reference.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are dependent ultimately on claim 1 and the distinctions from Blusseau described above for claim 1 are, thus, inherent in each of these dependent



APPENDIX

Docket No. 1948-4666

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MARKED CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Changes to the paragraph commencing at line 1 of page 3 of the Specification:

--[DESCRIPTION] SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Changes to the paragraph commencing at line 7 of page 6 of the Specification:

--[Figure 10 illustrates] Figures 10-15 illustrate in a more detailed way the profile of the beam obtained with the parameter changing as illustrated in Figure 9.--

Changes to the paragraph commencing at line 1 of page 15 of the Specification:

--The profile of the beam obtained with the parameter setting of z_{Fd} as illustrated in Figure 9 is represented in [Figure 10] Figures 10-15.--

MARKED CHANGES TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A motor vehicle headlamp, comprising a light source for generating light, a mirror possessing first and second focal regions, and a converging lens, the source being placed in the first focal region and the lens having a focus located in the second focal region, the mirror and the lens having axes which are essentially coincident defining an optical axis of headlamp, and the headlamp further including a mask located in the region of the focus of the lens, in order thus to project a beam having an upper cut-off [of which is] defined by said mask, and the mirror [being adapted to concentrate] having at least a first area for concentrating the light in the vertical direction,

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towards a vertical focusing baseline extending substantially horizontally and transversely to the optical axis and passing close to the focus of the lens, wherein the mirror further comprises at least one corrected vertical focusing area [adapted to concentrate] for concentrating the light, in the vertical direction, towards a second vertical focusing [locuses remote] baseline separate from said vertical focusing [line] baseline in the axial direction, in order thus to increase the thickness of the light reflected by said first area along said optical axis.

2. (Amended) A headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one corrected vertical focusing area comprise two corrected focusing areas [are provided], situated on either said of an axial vertical plane.

4. (Amended) A headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the [corrected vertical focusing area possesses a corrected] second vertical focusing line [separate,] disposed further in the axial direction [, from] than said vertical focusing baseline.

5. (Amended) A headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mirror further comprises at least one vertical offsetting area for [vertical] offsetting [of] the light [able to generate a radiation which, on average, is offset] in at least one direction vertically upwards or downwards with respect to the vertical focusing baseline.

7. (Amended) A headlamp as claimed in claim 5, wherein the vertical offsetting area is constructed from sections of axisymmetric ellipsoids a first focus of which is

situated above or below the source and a second focus of which is situated on a vertical focusing line associated with said vertical offsetting area.



PATENT

Docket No. 1948-4666

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

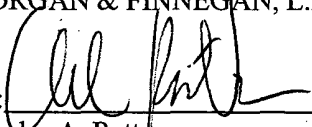
I hereby certify that the attached:

1. Response to Office Action
2. a check in the amount of \$110.00
3. Petition and Fee For Extension of Time
4. Return Post Card

along with any paper(s) referred to as being attached or enclosed and this Certificate of Mailing are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Date: October 30, 2001

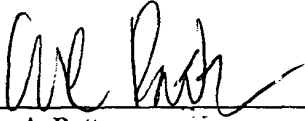
By: 
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6. [] Charge the \$ _____ fee to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No.0891-4163. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.
7. [X] No additional extension of time is believed to be necessary for the consideration of this response. However, should an additional extension of time be required for consideration of the instant response, such an additional extension of time is hereby petitioned. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this paper, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500. Order No. 1948-4666. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: October 30, 2001

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